ceived representations in which small scale industries have apprehended that all such units will be taken over by large industrial houses due to increase in investment limit for small scale industries; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to protect Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J.KURIEN): (a) Some associations have expressed apprehensions that increase in investment limits in small scale sector coupled with 24% equity participation by other industrial undertakings, could lead to such takeovers

(b) Investment limits in small scale sector have been increased from time to time to offset increased cost of capital goods and to provides for modernisation and technological upgradation of existing small scales units. The last increase with effect from 2.4. 1991 was notified only after laying the draft notification, proposing to enhance the investment limits, in both the Houses of parliament as per the procedure prescribed under the Sub-section (3) of the Section 11-B of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

While allowing equity participation by other industrial undertakings in a Small Scales Industrial Undertakings to the extent of 24%, the basic definition of Small scale industrial undertaking which bars a small scale industrial undertaking from being subsidiary of or from being owned, or controlled by other industrial undertaking (s), has not been diluted. The apprehensions, therefore, do not appear to be well-founded.

Conference of Food Ministers of Southern Zone on Public Distribution System

*792. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conference of the Food Ministers of the States in the Southern Zone was held recently ;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed thereat concerning the Public Distribution System in these States;

(c) the decisions arrived at; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. A request was made to the Central Government on the following points:-

(i) That Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu should be given, firstly, rice procured in Andhra pradesh in preference to the rice from Punjab and Northern states;

(ii) That sugar be released to States from factories located in their respective states or from nearest factories.

(iii) That FCI be directed in farmers' interest to purchase at least 50% of paddy from regulated markets.

(iv) Items like edible oil and sugar be included in the category of 'foodgrains' for purposes of securing loans from R.B.I., and

(v) Adequate allotment of Palmolein be supplied to Southern States for Public Distribution System (PDS).

The effort is to supply Andhra Pradesh rice to these states in the first instance. However, it is not possible to meet the entire requirement of these states through this rice.

Requirements of levy sugar of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are being mostly met from factories located in the respective states. Kerala being a deficit state release of levy for the state is being effected from factories located in near-by states.

Food Corporation of India, in cooperation with State agencies, is responsible to procure all the paddy offered at regulated markets in Andhra pradesh. Purchase centres are opened by FCI in such markets. The arrangements are being further strenghthened in cooperation with the state Government.

Food credit is advanced by the commercial banks for helping the procurement operations in accordance with the procurement policy laid down by the Central Government. Advances for essential commodities are covered by the selective credit Control of R.B.I.whose objective is one of preventing speculative holding of certain essential commodities with the help of bank credit. Bank credit for food procurement cannot therefore be compared to financing of essential/sensitive commodities like edible oil and sugar etc.

It has not been possible to supply edible oil after March, 1991 due to absence of import.

Performance of Public Sector Undertakings

*793. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a though review of performance of the Public Sector Undertakings has been made;

(b) if so, the particulars of such Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) the actual performance of these undertakings as reviewed so far; and

(d) the date by which the review is likely to be completed in the case of all the public sector Undertakings.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K.THUNGON): (a) to (d). Reviewing the performence of Central Public Sector enterprises is a continuous process at the levels of Board of Directors/concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. Yearly review of the performance of all the central public sector Enterprises, based on other Annual audited reports, is done and placed before Parliament every year during the Budget Session in a review titled "Public Enterprises Survey", The latest report for the Year 1989-90 was placed before the Parliament on 27th February, 1991, and the next report for the year 1990-91 will be due for presentation during the next Budget Session in February, 1992.

Bio Fertilizers

*794. DR.V.RAJESWARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to increase the production of fertilizers including bio-fertilizers to meet the ever-increasing demand for fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to take up projects for production of bio-fertilizers in the four southern states; and

(c) if so; the fund allocation proposed to be made to these states for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR.CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The steps taken to increase the production of chemical fertilizers are:

i) Expansion of Existing fertilizer plants.

ii) setting up of new fertilizer plants.